10

PHILLIPS
BRAGA
PRIANTO

HARLEY QUINN

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Before the Dark Knight...
Bruce Wayne's trials begin.

BATMAN - The Knight

Written by **CHIP ZDARSKY**

Art by **CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO**

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THORNS

Writer STEPHANIE PHILLIPS Artist LAURA BRAGA Colors ARIF PRIANTO
Letters DERON BENNETT Cover RILEY ROSSMO Variant Cover DERRICK CHEW
1:25 Variant Cover RACHTA LIN Editor BEN ABERNATHY
Harley Quinn created by Paul Dini and Bruce Timm

...MARTIN SPINELLI WAS FOUND DEAD INSIDE HIS APARTMENT THIS AFTERNOON...

...SPINELLI, RECENTLY ACQUITTED IN A MURDER INVESTIGATION INVOLVING A NINE-YEAR-OLD BOY, WAS FOUND WITH MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO THE--

I ♥ me

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JUST OUTSIDE OF GOTHAM CITY.

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH...

...I'VE BEEN WAITING IN THE *RAIN* FOR *TWENTY* MINUTES.

IT'S GOTHAM, ELI. IT *ALWAYS* RAINS.

DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL THIS THE *LOVERS'* BRIDGE?

I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR STORIES ABOUT--

IN THE 1950s, A YOUNG COUPLE WAS BANNED FROM SEEING ONE ANOTHER BY THEIR STRICTLY RELIGIOUS FAMILIES.

THEY MET HERE AT MIDNIGHT ON VALENTINE'S DAY AND TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES BY JUMPING HAND IN HAND INTO THE ROCKY WATER BELOW.

SINCE THEN, MANY YOUNG COUPLES HAVE JUMPED HERE TOGETHER... CHASING SOME *LEGEND* ABOUT ONLY *TRUE* LOVE PROTECTING YOU FROM THE CERTAIN DEATH WAITING BELOW.

HUGO, WE *NEED* TO TALK ABOUT *HARLEY.*

IVY'S BACK AND ALL THOSE... THOSE *GIRLS*... THEY *RUINED* MY CAUCUS OF CORRUPTION.

THEY RAN ME OVER WITH A *VAN!*

I *PAID* YOU TO HELP MANUFACTURE THAT DRUG AND IT'S ALL... *RUINED!*

I WANT MY MONEY BACK OR I'M GOING STRAIGHT TO GOTHAM P.D. AND I WILL TELL THEM EVERYTHING WE--

HUGO? WH-WHAT ARE YOU...?

BLAM

UNGH!

I'D SAY IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL...

...BUT I *NEVER* LIKED YOU.

SPSSSH

SKREE

A **KEEPSAKE** IS SOMETHING THAT YOU HOLD ON TO TO HELP REMEMBER THE PERSON WHO GAVE IT TO YOU...

LITTLE SANTA PRISCA.

...USUALLY, THAT'S BECAUSE THE PERSON OR PLACE IS SOMETHING YOU **WANT** TO REMEMBER.

BUT THAT GUY KEEPSAKE WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO TAKE OVER GOTHAM AND **FORCE** ME INTO BUSINESS WITH HIM...

...I CAN'T **FORGET** HIM FAST ENOUGH.

I'M NOT **USUALLY** SUPER BIG ON **MEMENTOS.**

KNOCK KNOCK

PAM?

WELL, I GUESS I DID KEEP THE BOWLING PIN I ONCE USED TO OFF A HITMAN WHO TRIED TO TAKE ME OUT AT STRIKERS IN NEW YORK CITY FOR JUST A **MEASLY** FIFTY DOLLARS.

COMIN'!

IT WAS THE **FIRST** TIME I EVER BEAT SOMEONE WITH A BOWLING PIN. **OF COURSE** I KEPT **THAT.**

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE--

BUT AFTER MOVIN' FROM GOTHAM TO CONEY ISLAND... TO RUNNIN' AROUND WITH THE SUICIDE SQUAD...AND COMIN' **BACK** TO GOOD OL' GOTHAM...

HOLY ****...

I DIDN'T FEEL TOO MUCH LIKE **DRAGGIN'** MY PAST AROUND WITH ME.

...YOU LOOK... YOU LOOK **ABSOLUTELY STUNNING,** RED.

THANKS. AFTER MONTHS LIVING BELOW GOTHAM CITY, I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING THAT WASN'T COVERED IN **DIRT...**

THOUGH, I ADMIT, I HELD ON TO **EVERYTHING** FROM MY TIME WITH IVY.

...SO I GRABBED THIS ONE FROM THAT TAILOR SHOP ON THE CORNER OF EIGHTH.

THANKFULLY THEY HAD SOMETHING IN MY SIZE BUT...

I GUESS THE PSYCHOLOGIST IN ME WOULD SAY I'VE HAD SOME ISSUES WITH **ATTACHMENT** AND **COMMITMENT** IN THE PAST.

NAPKINS FROM OUR FAVORITE DINNER SPOTS, HAIR CLIPS, TICKET STUBS, T-SHIRTS, AND EVEN THIS WEIRD-SHAPED ROCK WE FOUND ON A HIKE.

...I COULDN'T QUITE GET THE ZIPPER.

YOU THINK YOU COULD...?

I... **YEAH...**

THANK YOU... **HARLS.**

I WAS SO USED TO TRYIN' TO BE **ENOUGH** FOR SOMEONE...

SO...***THIS*** IS WHERE YOU LIVE NOW?

...LIKE IF I COULD JUST SOMEHOW BE **MORE** OF SOMETHING...OR LESS OF **ME**...THEY'D LOVE ME.

I KNOW IT DOESN'T ***LOOK*** LIKE MUCH...BUT TURNS OUT THIS HERO BUSINESS REALLY ISN'T VERY ***PROFITABLE.***

AND BATMAN'S ALL STINGY WITH THE ***BAT-MONEY.***

BUT RED...SHE DIDN'T JUST **ACCEPT** MY SCARS...

YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE BATMAN THING, THEN.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY ***HARLEY QUINN*** GOES ***STRAIGHT.***

...SHE **LOVED** THEM.

STRAIGHT?

YUP, I TOTALLY WENT ***STRAIGHT.*** I REALLY LIKE BOAT SHOES AND I BOUGHT THE COMMEMORATIVE D.V.D. OF THE ROYAL WEDDING.

AND AFTER ALL THE WORK I'VE DONE TO FINALLY ACCEPT THOSE SCARS FOR MYSELF...

...SHE'S FINALLY HERE.

I GUESS WE SHOULD GO SO WE'RE NOT LATE TO MEET... WHAT'S HIS NAME AGAIN? KENNY?

IVY'S BACK.

KEVIN.

KEVIN. THAT'S RIGHT. YOUR SIDEKICK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE A SIDEKICK.

I DON'T KNOW THAT I'D CALL HIM THAT...HE'S A FRIEND. AND YOU'RE REALLY GONNA LOVE HIM. YOU KNOW HE ONCE FOUGHT MR. FREEZE TO HELP SAVE ME FROM--

AND THIS TIME I WON'T LOSE HER AGAIN.

IT'S A LONG STORY.

HONESTLY...I AM A LITTLE SURPRISED YOU WANT TO GO TO ART AFTER DARK. SEEMS LIKE THE KINDA THING YOU'D FIND...I DON'T KNOW... CHEESY?

I LIKE ART AND I LIKE DARK...I THOUGHT IT COULD BE FUN.

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE EXACTLY HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE...

...EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE PERFECT.

GOTHAM MUSEUM OF ART.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT HERE BEFORE THEM...

...WE LEFT HALF AN HOUR LATE.

YEAH, I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, KEV. I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW MY WORK THING WOULD TAKE SO LONG.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, SAM.

HONESTLY, I'M JUST REALLY GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO COME...OR EVEN *WANTED* TO COME. I DON'T KNOW *ANYTHING* ABOUT ART AND--

IS *THAT* THEM?

PEOPLE ARE *STARING.*

DUH. HAVE YOU SEEN *YOU* IN THAT DRESS?

I'D STARE TOO IF I DIDN'T DREAD *FACE-PLANTING* IN THESE SHOES. NO ONE TOLD ME MUSEUMS HAVE SO MANY STAIRS...

YASQUINN

HEY, HARLEY! I'D LOVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO--

AND THIS, OF COURSE, IS PAMELA ISLEY... OR IVY, AS SHE'S BETTER KNOWN.

HEY...I'M KEVIN.

SAM!

I'VE HEARD *SO* MUCH ABOUT YOU! I'M SO GLAD WE FINALLY GET TO MEET!

YEAH...

SO, SAM...TELL ME *EVERYTHING.*

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD? DID YOU PLAY ANY SPORTS GROWING UP? WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SHARK?

I'LL CALL THEM *RIGHT NOW* TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR--

HEY!

DID YOU KNOW MAKO SHARKS ARE THE *FASTEST* SHARK SPECIES?

OH! IF YOU LIKE WATER, THERE'S THIS LITTLE PLACE BY THE PIER THAT HAS THE *BEST* SHELLFISH.

I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO.

I'LL ASK SOMEONE FOR SOME PAPER TOWELS...

...AND I'LL GET YOU MORE WINE AS SOON AS I FIND--

NO, DON'T...IT'S FINE.

I'M JUST GOING TO GO TO THE BATHROOM AND CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

I CAN COME WITH YOU AND--

NO.

WE'LL COME FIND YOU IN A BIT, HARLEY.

OH... OKAY. SORRY, KEV...

COME HERE. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING...

"IN 1657, A FRENCH SHIP CALLED THE FLEUR-DE-LIS LEFT PORT FOR ENGLAND WITH A GIFT FOR PRINCESS MARY..."

...A GIFT *INTENDED* TO SECURE A MARRIAGE AND A TREATY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

BUT THE *FLEUR-DE-LIS* NEVER MADE IT TO ENGLAND.

IN FACT, IT NEVER MADE IT BACK TO FRANCE EITHER.

IT JUST... *DISAPPEARED.*

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS STUFF?

THE *INTERNET.*

THEN WHAT WAS *THE GIFT?* WHAT WAS ON THE SHIP?

THAT *GIFT* IS RIGHT BEHIND *THESE* DOORS...

I DON'T KNOW, RED...I DON'T THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK HERE.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE A *QUICK* LOOK.

NO BIG DEAL. WE USED TO DO THIS KIND OF THING *ALL* THE TIME.

YEAH... BUT...

HURRY UP BEFORE SOMEONE SEES YOU.

THE ROSE DIAMOND...

ISN'T IT GORGEOUS?

YEAH... IT'S GREAT.

NOW CAN WE GO?

HARLEY...DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH THIS ONE DIAMOND IS WORTH?

MAYBE IF WE COME BACK WHEN THE EXHIBIT IS OFFICIALLY OPEN, THE TOUR GUIDE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL US.

ONE DIAMOND... THAT'S ALL WE NEED, HARLS. ONE DIAMOND THAT WAS ALREADY MISSING FOR CENTURIES...

WE CAN FINALLY GET OUT OF GOTHAM. TOGETHER.

BUT... THAT'S NOT...I DON'T THINK I CAN--

DON'T THINK. WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE. JUST LET INSTINCT TAKE OVER AND BY THIS TIME TOMORROW WE'LL BE--

HEY!

YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE!

WE'RE *VERY* SORRY, BUT HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

DIAMONDS ARE A *PLANT-HUMAN HYBRID'S* BEST FRIEND.

IVY... DON'T...

YASQUIN

...GLCK...

BLAM

GYAH!

YASQUIN

YOU HURT THE GREEN.

THWAK

NO... PLEASE...

BEGGING IS THE LAST THING THAT'S GOING TO SAVE YOU...

WSH

IVY... STOP!

YASQUINA

UGH!

HARLEY!

****!

HARLEY, I--I'M SO--

WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU?

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *OUR* NIGHT...BUT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE HERE WITH *ME,* DID YOU?

YOU JUST CAME TO STEAL THE *STUPID* DIAMOND.

THIS *USED* TO BE *US.* I NEVER SAID I WANTED TO *CHANGE...*

...YOU JUST DECIDED THIS IS WHAT *YOU* WANTED!

HARLEY WANTS SOMETHING SO NOW WE *ALL* JUST HAVE TO PLAY ALONG!

COME ON...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED STITCHES.

DAMMIT.

DO YOU ALWAYS TAKE YOUR GIRLFRIENDS TO A MUSEUM WHERE YOUR BEST FRIEND IS ALMOST KILLED BY HER LOVER...?

...OR AM I *SPECIAL?*

I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT, SAM...I HAD NO IDEA ANY OF THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

IT'S *HARLEY QUINN* WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE. YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN *SOMETHING* BAD WOULD HAPPEN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HARLEY *ISN'T* A VILLAIN ANYMORE. HER RECORDS ARE CLEAN AND--

WAIT...DID YOU SAY YOU'RE MY *GIRLFRIEND?*

ONLY IF YOU'RE MY *BOYFRIEND.*

WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?

YEAH... *YES...I DEFINITELY* WOULD.

GOOD.

GOOD NIGHT, KEVIN.

GOOD-- GOOD NIGHT, SAM.

YES!

HEY...

...LOVER BOY...

...LET'S TAKE A WALK.

I DID EVERYTHING RIGHT.

I'VE BEEN MAKING AMENDS.

I'VE BEEN HELPING BATMAN AND THE FORMER JOKER CLOWNS.

HELL, I EVEN JUST PLAYED A **PRETTY** PIVOTAL ROLE IN STOPPING A **MASSIVE** SCARECROW ATTACK ON THE CITY.

CAN I JOIN YOU?

I DON'T KNOW...**CAN YOU?**

I THOUGHT...I DON'T KNOW... I THOUGHT IF I DID **ALL** THAT...

DON'T BE A **BRAT.**

WERE YOU COMING HERE TO APOLOGIZE FOR STABBING ME IN THE HAND WITH YOUR SPIKY VINE? BECAUSE YOU'RE OFF TO A POOR START.

...THAT IF I TRULY PUT GOOD **KARMIC ENERGY** INTO THE WORLD, OR SOMETHING...

I **AM** SORRY, HARLEY.

AND THE STUFF I SAID ABOUT NOT WANTING TO BE IN GOTHAM...I WAS JUST ANGRY AND CONFUSED, I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.

WAIT...DO YOU **EVER** THINK **STRAIGHT?**

YOU **ARE** A BRAT.

...I THOUGHT, **AT THE VERY LEAST,** THE HERO WOULD GET THE GIRL.

IVY, I SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING TO YOU.

WHAT...?

YOU WERE RIGHT. I DECIDED WHAT *I* WANTED AND NEVER EVEN GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT IT WITH ME.

I WANTED TO PICK UP RIGHT WHERE WE LEFT OFF. BUT WHILE YOU'VE BEEN STUCK IN THE GROUND, I'VE BEEN ON THIS...*JOURNEY.* I'VE *CHANGED.*

HERE... I GOT YOU SOMETHING.

JUST OPEN IT.

NO, HARLEY. YOU SHOULDN'T GET *ME* SOMETHING... I HURT YOU, AND--

DICE AND...AN *ENVELOPE?*

THE LETTER IS FOR YOU TO READ WHEN YOU GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

AND I WOULD *LIKE* TO SAY THAT THERE'S A *REALLY* DEEP MEANING BEHIND THE DICE...

...LIKE HANGING THEM ON YOUR REARVIEW MIRROR SYMBOLIZES THAT I'M BEHIND YOU AND SUPPORTING YOUR PATH...

...BUT IT WAS THE ONLY RED AND BLACK ITEM AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE ACROSS FROM THE HOSPITAL.

MY OPTIONS WERE A BIT LIMITED AT TWO IN THE MORNING.

I...I DON'T THINK I UNDERSTAND. WHERE AM I *GOING?*

RED, IT TOOK ME YEARS TO FIGURE OUT MY PATH AND WHAT WAS BEST FOR ME.

I TOOK *SO* MANY WRONG TURNS ALONG THE WAY...AND I'LL PROBABLY MAKE AT LEAST TWENTY MORE...*MAYBE THIRTY*...WE'LL SEE.

THE BEST PATH I EVER TOOK IS THE ONE THAT LED ME TO *YOU.*

OUR STORY...IT'S *NOT* OVER.

BUT YOU NEED TO FIND YOUR OWN PATH, TOO.

AND I HAVE TO LET YOU... BECAUSE *I LOVE YOU.*

NEXT MONTH:
KEEPSAKE'S REVENGE

SELINA'S BACK IN GOTHAM, AND IT'S A STEAL.

CATWOMAN #39

Written by
TINI HOWARD

Art by
NICO LEON

THE FUN BEGINS IN
JANUARY

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN DETECTIVE COMICS

SHADOWS OF THE BAT

A 12-part weekly event starting in January's *Detective Comics* #1047

INTERVIEW WITH
MARIKO TAMAKI

2022 begins with the epic 12-part weekly event "Shadows of the Bat," running through *Detective Comics* #1047-1058. With Batman away, Gotham's criminals will play, and series writer Mariko Tamaki details what to expect from the story.

How did "Shadows of the Bat" come about? Did you always envision it as a weekly event?

We approached it as a sort of mini epic graphic novel of sorts. I've also always wanted to mix a supernatural menace with something that felt more like a con, where you can use the 12-issue structure to play out all the twists and turns. Plus, we wanted something with a lot of different characters so we could give them all some space with 12 issues.

What can you tell us about Dr. Wear and Arkham Tower?

Dr. Wear is a salesman, charismatic and convincing. When we meet him at the beginning of this series, he's in the middle of a huge press conference promoting Arkham Tower, a new and improved 2.0 of Arkham Asylum, recently constructed just blocks away from City Hall.

Arkham Tower is a new day not just for Arkham but for Gotham City. Wear is promising Gotham a medical miracle, a cure that transforms those who have been historically Arkham's patients, Gotham's most dangerous criminals, into what seem to be contented, docile members of society. The idea is that if this cure works on Gotham's worst, it can cure everyone in Gotham of what ails them. Of course, there is no miracle cure, and what Wear is actually setting up is a ticking time bomb in the heart of Gotham City.

Batman is away from Gotham during "Shadows of the Bat," putting the focus on other members of the Bat-Family. Who plays a prominent role?

I'm a huge fan of Huntress, and I always enjoy writing her. It's been nice to write a little Nightwing too. We also feature Batwoman, the Batgirls, Tim Drake, Oracle, a patient who thinks she's Harley Quinn, and a few other surprises too!

You're starting off with Ivan Reis as your artistic partner. What has that been like?

Ivan is pretty much a legend, and so it's a little intimidating asking a legend to draw your Batman story. But he is so detailed and so expressive in what he does. All the characters just completely come alive on every page he does. It's legitimately epic.

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